Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of houses tubewells and community halls sanctioned	Amount released as Central share of assistance	Remarks
11.	Bihar	200 houses and 10 tubewells	5,00,000	———
12.	Kerala	300 houses	44,21,305	———
	TOTAL :	4561 houses, 91 tubewells and 14 community halls.	5,42,87,999	

Status of National Seeds Corporation

129. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the National Seeds Corporation (NSC);

(b) the annual revenues for the last three years;

(c) whether there has been a reduction in activities of NSC in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to provide high-quality seeds to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) a statement is annexed (*See* below).

(b) The annual revenue of NSC for last 3 years was as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount
1995-96	59.28
1996-97	54.71
1997-98	61.32 (Provisional)

(c) No, Sir. Andhra Pradesh is main producing centre for Sorghum, Bajra, Paddy, Moong, Urid, Sunflower, Groundnut, Jute and Vegetable corps. Recently, Cotton and Soyabean crops have also been introduced. The procurement of seed in Andhra Pradesh has been around 47,000 quintals during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97. During the current year (1998-99), it is proposed to procure 67000 quintals of seeds. In the year 1997-98, due to exceptionally higher production of paddy the total procurement had gone upto about 73000 quintals.

(d) The high quality seeds produced by NSC are distributed to the farmers through NSC's own sale counters and dealers' net work. Number of dealers in the State of Andhra Pradesh during last one year has increased from 150 to 173 covering almost the entire state. NSC has also opened a seed production unit-cum-sale counter at Nandyal to serve the farmers of the area.

Statement

National Seeds Corporation (NSC) a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, was established in the year 1963 under the Companies Act, 1956. The objectives for which the Corporation was established were to produce and distribute the seeds of high quality to the farmers and also to bring about awareness among the farming community towards utilisation of high quality seeds for ensuring better yields. It undertakes the production of breeder seed on its own farms and foundation and certified seeds through contract growers,

Agricultural Universities, State Seeds Corporations and State Farms Corporation of India. Apart from its commercial activities, NSC is serving for a great social objective of producing and distributing the seeds of such crops which are not commercially profitable. The physical performance of the Corporation during the period from 1995-96 to 1997-98 is given below:

(Quantity in qtls.)

Year	Breeder	Foundation	Certified	Total
1995-96	2085	28704	407194	437983
1996-97	1741	25403	293914	321058
1997-98	1963	21281	360531	383775
1998-99	1600 (Target)	20000 (Target)	391050 (Target)	412650 (Target)

During the year ending 31st March, 1997, the Corporation has earned a net profit of Rs. 65.05 lakhs as compared to a net profit of Rs. 96.86 lakhs in 1995-96. The Corporation has started earning marginal profits in its working from 1995-96 after incurring continuous losses since 1985-86.

Assistance to the families of deceased farmers

130. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the reported sucidies of farmers in Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra due to failure of crops;

(b) the steps taken by Government to assist the families of such farmers; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to assist the farmers who are facing debt graps due to the damage of crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported 236 suicidal deaths due to damage to crops while the Government of Karnataka has reported 13 suicidal deaths as a result of damage to crops and the Government of Maharashtra has reported 12 cases of suicides having direct linkage to crop loss/indebtendness and 7 cases having some linkage with crop loss. There has been no report of suicidal deaths by the Government of Punjab.

While it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities from their annual allocation under Calamity Relief Fund, the Government of India provides additional assistance, if any, from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), in the event of a calamity of a rare severity. An additional assistance of Rs. 12.00 crore was released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98 from the NFCR in the wake of damage to crops, mainly cotton, due to pest attack.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased while the Government of Karnataka has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakh each in 13 suicide cases and the Government of Maharashtra has paid Rs. 1.00 lakh per family in 12 suicide cases having direct linkage with crop loss/indebtedness and Rs. 50,000/- per family in 7 cases having some linkage with crop loss. In addition, the Government of Karnataka has released Rs. 4.00 crore as one-time assistance in the form of input subsidy to the affected small and marginal farmers and Government of Andhra Pradesh an-